

Dr. William Johnson
187 Thomas Johnson Drive, #3
Frederick, MD 21702

3/16/00

Dear Dr. Johnson,

In yesterday's substitute for the conference that had been requested of me by Gambro, in response to what I regard as a very serious offense by Gambro that also and repeatedly inflicted more pain than I recall, I was given the usual conjectures that, as with them all, lacked any substance at all or any contact with any kind of reality, including medical reality. You offered the baseless conjecture that the nurse pulled ^{repeatedly and} hard off the plastic suture because it was loose, as it was not, and for that reason, to remove it. Usually within my ~~expert~~ experience they are cut off unless they are of metal.

And no sooner had you stopped at my recliner than as though by magic Ms. Terri and Joan Cornell also appeared there. I do not recall Ms. Terri ever having joined you there in the past. And most of what contact Ms. Cornell had with me were not in my interest but in Gambro's. As when in that first of these meetings ^{ngs} you heard her promise that the \$208 that Gambro had stuck me with for the unnecessary ambulance charge that was caused ~~per~~ exclusively in its interest and was the result of its gross negligence, would be returned to me. It has not yet happened and I can only wonder if this dishonesty will continue unless Gambro is compelled to belated honesty, which I prefer not to do.

It happens that my skin is old, thin and fragile and subject to itching for which, as I told you ~~and~~ Gambro had no interest in ~~and~~ for which I have been treated for more than six years. I can control this itching when I am awake but I cannot in my sleep and over the years I have inflicted much damage on myself by this nocturnal scratching. I was concerned about the occasional itch in the area of the catheter and just before last ^{Mond} Friday I had asked a Gambro technician if that spot could be protected from scratching. Her detailed and informative ^{Reply} ~~suppl~~ accompanied by her examination and then sketching of it was that the catheter was needed for protection and would remain there as long as necessary. She did not find it ~~102~~.

Aside from the fact that when during that severe pain I asked Ms. Barb what she was doing and why she did not tell me that the suture was loose, as you made up - and then could have asked her if you had really wanted to know, she did, twice, give me an entirely different so-called explanation about which I wrote you before you made this ~~indifferent~~ insulting and impossible pretended justification up - out of nothing but a desire to protect Gambro no matter how serious and often its offenses are.

Before you added this fiction to the collection of them you have always offered to explain what can be explained in no other way, I wrote you that

the plain Ms. Barb inflicted on me was greater than I recall from quite a few surgeries several of which I was not expected to survive. There were in all these surgeries sutures to be removed. Sometimes ~~there~~ ^{were} ~~was~~ ^{but} ~~not~~ ⁺¹⁰⁰⁰ seriously painful as this was. I have had flesh removed without anesthesia and that also was not nearly as painful. Nor was the insertion or removal of the several access methods with which you are familiar.

In no case was any kind of stitch removed from anywhere on my body by repeated and painful jerking until it finally broke, about a half-dozen ~~strong~~ ^{very} ~~and~~ ^{strong} pulls and jerks - without any warning for any one of them, as had been Gambio's practise when the access in my upper arm was used and only the hollow needle was inserted in it then.

In none of the not infrequent earlier experiences was any stitch removed that I can remember being removed other than by cutting it. This was also true of the stout metal stitches I recall after the heart surgery. And I do not remember any of those earlier experiences to have indicated any need for any kind of pain killer. As this experie^{nce} sure as hell did have to indicate to anyone with any kind of experience, as the nurses do and did have. And as the technicians should have known of.

I regard this as outrageous and anti-professional personal abuse and none of the childish explanations you tried to come up with does a thing but demean you and make your function as the Gambio medical consultant into an indecency.

What I have reported regularly, including to you, personally, remains without explanation or even conjecture, that instead of feeling better and being more able as the benefit of this dialysis the opposite is true. To begin with I felt no better at all, although as you had indicated earlier, it did diminish the itching. Coinciding with the first of the controversies, over the ^{Gambio} ~~improper~~ and potentially dangerous ~~announced~~ discontinuation of the ~~proteins~~, promised by it in its literature it gave me and authorized and paid for ~~by~~ Medicare, I grew increasingly weaker and unsteady on my feet by the dialysis. I am confident that I reported this to the Gambio technicians and nurses ^{as} I did also to you. Without even a conjecture in any response. If it is not the function of the medical director to respond to questions like this and he also conjectures instead of explaining what is hurtful to me, what is his role other than to cover up from whatever Gambio does? No matter how wrong or potentially serious it may be.

For each of the meetings Gambio ~~had~~ requested with me it chose a Wednesday, a day of dialysis, and it did this knowing that not so long after I am home I grow more unsteady on my feet and much more worn out. Before the first of these controversies I was able to do some shopping and to use that time for more walking, which for years has been important to me. Since the first of these controversies, as I have told

Gambro more than once, I do not leave home until the next morning. Early on I think I was driven to a medical appointment that afternoon but if my recollection on that is correct, I had myself driven because I wanted to take no chances with safety. Yet in asking me to be at another ^{c f} ~~these~~ ^{to} now always cancelled conferences, all on Gambro's request, Ms. Cornell again insisted on having it after the Wednesday dialysis. This time she indicated that it might be more than an hour after the dialysis is ended. I want you to know in advance that I refused that.

Ms. Cornell suggested that I use taxis both ways or one to take me home and then another to bring me back to retrieve my car. She did not offer to pay for them and I decline to subsidize Gambro, which has been systematically abusing me.

I did accept that the meeting begin immediately after the end of my dialysis, but if it does not then begin within a few minutes, I will take no chances with safety and will drive home while it is still, as for months it has been safe for me.

I presume that the insistence on a Wednesday is because that is the day a Gambro higher-up is there. Gambro local people may find that an important interest to serve and I offered to go to the Gambro center on a non-dialysis day, which was refused, but that is not going to be at the cost of subjecting me to any possible danger. I am again going to ask a friend to be with me, as Ms. Cornell suggested, but I am not going to waste more of his day for him for the Gambro convenience, either,

I intend to time myself this coming Wednesday and I am informing you of that in advance. I will wait about five minutes or so and if in that time this personage is not free I will go home.

All those things that should not have happened and have come in succession after each disagreement in which I have protested Gambro's violations of what I regard as its obligations, those things including serious and repeated pains, the only one of them you have not insisted was no more than a coincidence - and which were not ~~stitch~~

visited on me on any other ~~occasion~~ occasion. This repetition of very painful experiences this past Friday followed our not agreeing on what is "coincidence" of Gambro's effort to make me agree with what it wants and is both improper and of potential danger to me. By now ^b what you have attributed to "coincidence" is a major defiance of the odds - and this time you do not even attribute this infliction of what to me is major pain to that and you invent the fiction that the ~~stitch~~ plastic

^w needless suture was loose, as it was not, and that loose sutures are removed by inflicting pain on the patient ~~rather~~, rather than by cutting them off painlessly. I repeat that Ms. Barb did not give me any such explanation. All she said that that she had to "wrap" what she referred to as it. This is not even a suggestion that the suture ^w as loose. You invented that to avoid your medical responsibilities, which included learning ^{why} that pain was inflicted on me. In any event, it was not by "coin-

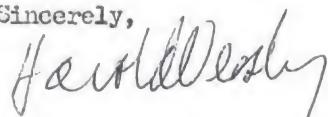
cidence" that this pain was inflicted. I say deliberately inflicted. It also was not for any medical reason. and it was with your acceptance and ^{impossible} childish attempt to justify it with ^{your invention}, that it could have been because that suture was loose - as it was not.

Gambro, including you, have left me no choice but to make and leave a record of these untoward things and for my executors to be aware of them beginning now. There are few ways I would want to have to waste time than on this, as I also did not want to waste all that time in the nursing home, to which I did not want to go from the hospital anyway, but as I discharged myself from the nursing home after satisfying myself that there was ~~no~~ reason not to and the home and you as its assistant medical director did not ~~had~~ would not do, I do make this record to add to those of the past. As I will also in the future if these apparent needs continue.

If, as I sincerely hope they do not, they do continue, I think that Gambro, including you, would do well to consider ^{what} those who have an interest in my work may well suspect and do if they do so suspect. ~~Do~~ and ~~say~~.

I also record in this that on Wednesday you again ^{declined} to permit me to visit and confer with you in your office rather than in the Gambro environment.

Sincerely,



Harold Weisberg